

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 20-23, 2026**

F-15EX HOMELAND DEFENSE MISSION ASSURANCE

ISSUE: The 144th Fighter Wing, responsible for defending the Southwest Coast through its 24/7 Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) mission, faces a critical capability gap as its aging F-15C fleet approaches end-of-life with reduced sustainment funding. Under the current Air Force fielding plan, the Wing will not receive a full complement of F-15EX aircraft until FY2032, creating a multi-year period beginning in FY2028 in which the unit risks becoming non-mission capable and unable to meet homeland defense requirements. This risk is heightened by the decision to prioritize F-15EX delivery to installations without current fighter operations, diverting aircraft from ready-now Air National Guard units with experienced personnel and existing infrastructure.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group requests Congressional action to ensure uninterrupted homeland defense coverage during the transition from F-15C to F-15EX aircraft.

Specifically, the Monday Morning Group urges Congress to:

- Require the Air Force to field F-15EX aircraft concurrently and proportionally across existing Air National Guard F-15C bases.
- Prohibit retirement of any F-15C aircraft until replacement F-15EX aircraft are delivered and operational at corresponding wings.
- Maintain sufficient aircraft inventory and sustainment funding to preserve pilot readiness, maintainer proficiency, and full ACA mission capability.

Failure to ensure a synchronized transition will result in degraded readiness, loss of highly trained personnel, and a prolonged gap in the defense of critical U.S. airspace.

BACKGROUND: The 144th Fighter Wing has an established record of excellence in homeland defense and international training missions, uniquely positioning it to continue the ACA mission without interruption. Existing F-15C installations—including the 144th—can accept the F-15EX with minimal infrastructure investment, making them the most cost-effective and operationally efficient locations for early fielding. Prioritizing bases that require substantial military construction unnecessarily increases cost and risk while delaying combat-ready capability. A concurrent and proportional fielding strategy preserves readiness, reduces transition risk, and ensures the continuity of one of the nation’s most critical air defense missions.